

III. AMENDMENTS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A reagent container comprising one or more liquid-containing units for containing a reagent, and a thermostat container provided so as to surround at least one of said liquid-containing units, wherein:

said thermostat container has a heating agent or a cooling agent for heating or cooling said liquid-containing unit inside said thermostat container, but outside said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container;

said thermostat container comprises an aperture section which enables the transfer of a substance such as a gas between the inside of said thermostat container and the outside and;

said aperture section is sealed by a peelable or perforable sealing film.

2. (Amended) A reagent container according to claim 1, wherein said thermostat container comprises ~~an aperture section and/or~~ a mouth section which enables the transfer of a substance such as a gas between the inside of said thermostat container and the outside, and which is closed by said liquid-containing unit or a lid during heating or cooling.

3. (Original) A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2, wherein said thermostat container is secured to said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container.

4. (Original) A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2, wherein said thermostat container is removable from said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container.

5. (Amended) A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2 ~~any one of claim 2 through claim 4~~, wherein said cooling agent or heating agent is supplied from outside said thermostat container to the inside through said aperture section and/or mouth section in said thermostat container.

6. (Amended) A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2 ~~any one of claim 1 through claim 5~~, wherein all or some of said liquid-containing units contain a predetermined reagent, and the openings of at least those liquid-containing units that contain said reagent are sealed with a peelable or perforable sealing film.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2 ~~any one of claim 1 through claim 7~~, wherein said reagent container comprises a base section, and said liquid-containing units and the thermostat container are provided on said base section so that the openings and/or aperture sections of said liquid-containing units are located at said base section.

9. (Amended) A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2 ~~any one of claim 1 through claim 8~~, wherein said reagent container comprises a plurality of thermostat containers, and each thermostat container is set up to maintain a different temperature.

10. (Amended) A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2 ~~any one of claim 1 through claim 9~~, wherein a temperature-sensing element having a temperature-sensitive substance which senses the temperature of said thermostat container and visually indicates a change in temperature, is provided on said plurality of thermostat containers, or on the base section in the vicinity thereof.

11. (Amended) A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2 ~~any one of claim 1 through claim 10~~, wherein said base section comprises one or more tube fitting sections, into which a liquid-containing unit or a thermostat container can be detachably fitted.

12. (Original) A reagent container comprising: a base section, one or more liquid-containing units for containing a reagent;

a thermostat container provided so as to surround at least one of the liquid-containing units;

a heating agent or a cooling agent for heating or cooling said liquid-containing units, provided inside said thermostat container, but outside said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container;

an aperture section which is provided on said base section, and which enables gases to pass between said thermostat container and the outside; and

a sealing film affixed to the top of said base section in a peelable or perforable manner which, with all or some of said liquid-containing units containing a reagent, seals the openings and said aperture sections of at least those liquid-containing units which contain a reagent.

13. (Amended) A reagent container comprising one or more liquid-containing units for containing a reagent, and a thermostat member which forms all or part of a wall of at least one of said liquid-containing units, and said thermostat member heats or cools the inside of said liquid-containing unit in accordance with an external signal, wherein

said wall of said liquid-containing unit comprises a frame having a gap, a slot or an aperture, and a film-shaped member or a thin plate is provided so as to cover said gap, slot or aperture in said frame.

14. (Original) A reagent container according to claim 13, wherein an internal surface of said wall faces the inside of the liquid-containing unit, an external surface of the wall is outside the liquid-containing unit, and an area between the internal and external surfaces is integrally formed.

15. (Original) A reagent container according to either one of claim 13 and claim 14, wherein said thermostat member comprises a conductive member having a predetermined electrical resistance, and said signal is an electromagnetic signal.

16. (Amended) A reagent container according to either one of claim 13 and claim 14 ~~any one of claim 13 through claim 15~~, wherein a contact section which receives electrical signals by contacting a terminal of an electromagnetic supply provided outside the reagent container, is provided in said reagent container.

17. (Amended) A reagent container according to either one of claim 13 and claim 14 ~~any one of claim 13 through claim 16~~, wherein the conductive member, forms a wall of said liquid-containing unit, covers said wall, is built into said wall, or is attached to said wall.

18. (Cancelled)